The Significant use of ICT Tools in English Language Teaching and Learning with Special Reference to the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract— Language and technology become an essential part of our daily life . Language is a means of communication, and English language considers as one of the global languages. Information communication technology(ICT) has a worth valve in life aspects, and one of them is education. This study aims to focus on the role of ICT tools in English language teaching and learning with special reference to the covid-19 pandemic. It discusses ICT tools such as computers, the Internet, websites, mobile phones & applications, YouTube, and language labs. It finds that each of the mentioned tools has a vital role in teaching and learning English and in improving the learner's skills. A special reference has given to the use of ICT tools during covid-19 pandemic and how these tools help both teachers and learners in academic purposes.

Keywords— **Covid-19, Language learning, Language teaching, Skills, Technology**

I. INTRODUCTION

English is one of the international languages which been used over the world. It considers the means of communication and learning as well. Integrate ICT with the teaching and learning methodology is a vital step toward the improvement of teaching and learning strategies. The features of ICT tools enabled them to make it be a powerful tool in education.

The world is witnessing a technological revaluation in different sectors in human life. Every one becomes familiar with using technical tools such as computers, laptops, and mobiles. Technology has been used for various purposes in our daily life, and one of them is education. Raheem et al.[1] indicate that education is the backbone of any society and one of the essential factors for building any nation.

Due to the importance of education in our life, technology has been applying in the Teaching and learning process. Information communication technology (ICT) has been used in education during the 21 century. Most of the governments included ICT as one of the curricula in education. It considers the modern methods which help in the growth of higher thinking capabilities. The ICT tools regard an essential which have been used in every classroom. It helps in enhancing the quality of education for the teachers and the students as well. A positive impact has given to teaching and learning by the use of ICT. The tools of ICT help the teachers to present their classes in modern ways. It helps the teacher to enhance and motivate the students to acquire better learning. Besides, these tools also help the students in improving their knowledge and skills. English language teaching methodology started a new approach by using ICT tools in teaching English. More opportunities for communication between learners have been provided by ICT. Using the ICT assists the exchange of knowledge between home and the school or college.

In the last two decades, the use of ICT tools has rapidly increased. The real value of ICT tools has known to most of the people and especially the learners during the covid-19 crisis. The ICT tools play a vital role during the covid -19 pandemic. Teachers start using them virally as well as facilitates online teaching and learning. Summing, the use of ICT tools has a vital role in improving the quantity and quality of teaching and learning in both traditional and distance education. The cooperation between ICT and learning/teaching makes it an exciting topic for different researchers in different subjects.

II. INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Information communication technology (ICT) indicates technology forms which used to display, create, store, process, transmit, and share information by electronic methods. The ICT tools are varied, some are technologies, and some are equipment and services associated with technologies one. There are different technology tools such as a computer, television, mobile phone .etc, whereas email,

blog, and videoconferencing considered as equipment and services associated with technologies. These different tools can be divided into two types: web-based and non-web-based learning tools. Many of the mentioned tools have been applied to language teaching and learning. The present study is going to deal with the most common tools.

Fig 1: Variety use of ICT tools

III. THE USE OF ICT TOOLS IN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING.

Its already mentioned that we are witnessing a real revaluation of technology. The integration of technology (information communication technology) in language acquisition will assist teachers and learners in their academic purposes. Using the tools of ICT in the classroom enables for giving more benefits in language teaching and learning. It motivates the students to do tasks that may otherwise avoid. The students in ICT enabled language learning class will do their activities by using a computer software platform without any hesitation. It will make repetitive tasks more exciting and will have content that could be multimedia formats. Multimedia use while learning English can help in creating a long-lasting impact on learners. The teacher's role will be changed into a coordinator instead of an instructor. What is being propagated is a self-paced independent learning methodology with the assistance of ICT enabled English language teaching. The following are the most common and vital tools used in English language teaching and have an essential role in improving the language skills for the learners:-

Fig 2: Common types of ICT Tools

a) The use of Computer-assisted language learning (CALL)

This term had coined back in the 60s of the 20th century. It has been revisited more comprehensively in the 90s. The frequent advances in deep learning and its applications help the computer-assisted language learning in growing more prominent than ever. The computer became one of the essential items in modern life human. The computer can be considered as a necessary tool for ICT. The computer is also used to enable most of the contemporary communication process. The main idea premise around computers being able to come up with a language learning environment to the learners without the attendance of the teachers. Preparing, storing, collecting, and preparing data for communication are things that can be done by the computer. Nowadays, handling both computer and English language is the most necessary skills to be acquired.

Fig 3: Computer-assisted language learning

A kind of computerizes teaching can be used by the students, such as using multimedia CD ROM. A complete language course can be offered by many CD ROM

programs. It helps the students to listen to conversations or dialogues as well as watching video clips. It allows students who have messy handwriting or with poor spelling skills to produce multiple drafts and a piece of writing. The students can access different useful sites on the world wide webs and get direct instruction and practice in language skills such as writing, listing, and reading. Computer facilities such as web pages, presentation slide generators, databases, spreadsheets enabled the computer for explicit success in language teaching as well as all have their role in the language classroom. Moreover, all these facilities have a vital role in developing the language skills of students.

b) The use of the Internet and websites

The Internet offers an excellent opportunity to learn English rather than immersion in an English speaking environment. Nowadays, a noticeable relation between students with websites more than printed text. Students are frequently using the Internet and sites to share their information, ideas, and interaction purpose. The rapid spread of the Internet and the vital value of websites enable and encourage the students and teachers to use in the classroom and their personal life as well. It helps in saving time and energy. Students don't need to leave home or travel to have their classes. They can learn English lessons via the internet. Students can learn English whenever and wherever they want. The Internet helps both teachers and learners in searching for authentic material about English as well as courses, articles, and conferences. Students can send their assignments to the teacher via email, and the teacher can take an online exam. The facilities, such as online electronic whiteboards, worksheets, and notes, as well as webcam versions online, enable the students to have their missing lessons. Nowadays, there is a possibility to link the school in a network and work on projects together. Every educational institution has its website and uploads the study materials online.

Fig 4: Internet and websites

The website tool considers an essential internet technology that can be used in class to facilitate English teaching and learning. The worth value of the websites provides all the teachers and learners opportunities to have huge information about different subjects, not only English. The teacher can upload material to his/her website to let the student download them before the conduct of the lesson. The English teaching websites include various articles such as text for reading (poems, novels, and plays) or samples of writing tasks (emails, memorandums, essays, and letters). Websites of English language teaching and learning assist the beginning teachers and learners in gathering material related to their subject. The materials that can be downloaded from the mentioned websites include vocabulary and grammar exercises, texts for reading and gap filling, color pictures, dialogue ideas, English lesson plans, printable English worksheets, and class management instructions.

c) Mobile phone & applications

The mobile phone become one of the essential technological tools in our daily life. We can describe it as a small computer. It is used not only for calling or sending text messages but has been applied in education. Language learners can download different applications to help them with different aims such as Translation, writing, spoken, grammar, and others. Applications can be downloaded from Google store and play store. These applications (apps) provide students with tests, podcasts, dictionaries, games, quizzes, etc. The mentioned apps can be acted as a personal English language teacher who works 24/7. As discussed

above, there is a variety of types of applications. Language learners can download any application he /she needs, for instance, dictionary apps, vocabulary apps, writing apps, etc. Dictionaries can be used by the learners to search new words to enrich their vocabulary.

Fig 5: Mobile phone & applications

d) YouTube

YouTube is an online video sharing platform that permits the user to watch videos posted by other users and upload videos of their own. YouTube videos have been used in the English language classroom for different aims. It used to improve pronunciation, accent, vocabulary, listing, and others. Offering an actual example of everyday English used by people is one of the real benefits of using YouTube in English language teaching. Teachers can upload their lectures on their channels on YouTube to enable the learners to watch them. There are a lot of educational channels of English language such as learn American English, EF pod English, VOA learns English, BBC learns English, and many others.

Fig 6: YouTube platform

The learners of English can search and find any topic related to any subject they want. Watching movies and video clips can also help the learners to improve their four skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listing). The teacher can present a film to his/her students related to play, story, or novel, and that definitely will assist them to have full comprehension.

e) Language lab

The language laboratory is one of the basics in language teaching and learning in the modern era. It must be equipped with advanced technologies that help the learner and motivate him to learn a foreign language. Devices like a computer connected to the Internet, a smart board, ahead projector, and a headphone will let the learners have a better atmosphere than a traditional classroom. It also motivates them to learn English better as well as these technologies help in efficiently acquiring skills. Each device has a role in improving the learner's skills. The projector helps the teachers in presenting the slides related to a specific subject. Using projectors in classrooms, students can take better notes to determine the information most useful to them on the teachers' displays. Students may also ask the teacher to repeat the slide if they have missed details. The teacher can upload or send it to the student via mail or other communication tools. Smart boards help in increasing interactive educational tools, increasing motivation and interest among students, showing attractive graphics, improving lectures with audio-visual devices, providing better educational resources, and all that will improve the language skills of the students. To sum up, language lap aims to help the teachers in presenting their class in modern and advanced methods as well as to improve the language skills of the learners.
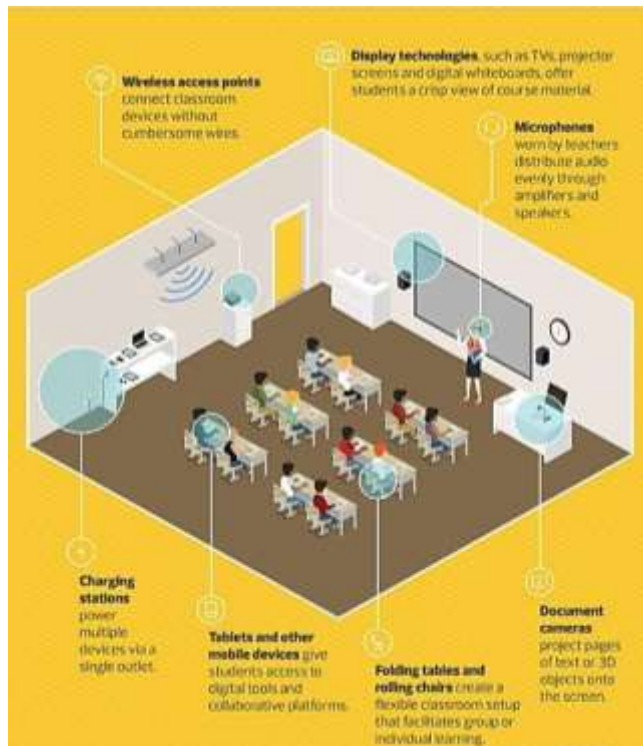
Fig 7: Content of advance Language lab

IV. THE USE OF ICT TOOLS IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Most of the countries have been fighting the invisible enemy, which is covid-19. Covid-19 has been spreading in different countries; it started in china and still spreading over the world. It considers as a dangerous disease that threatens human lives. Due to its dangers on human life and its fast spread, most of the countries went to lockdown. The governments of most countries asked to lockdown malls, markets, and educational institutions. From here, The world began to use technology extensively, not only in the teaching of the English language but in different aspects.

The ICT tools such as applications, websites, YouTube channels, webinars, and many others are all been used during the covid-19 pandemic. These tools enabled teachers to upload the teaching material on their university or school websites and Google classroom, whereas the others go for online teaching by using different applications such as zoom, Google meet, we meet, etc. During this crisis, the teachers start to organize webinars extensively, and students can join any webinar by one of the applications. The students exploit their time by attending webinars on different subjects.

Fig 8: Teaching and learning during the covid-19 pandemic

Some of the teachers' record videos and upload them either on YouTube or on other websites to let their students watch a video related to their subjects—the YouTube and educational sites used widely during the mentioned pandemic. The students can easily find videos on YouTube talk about any topic they seek. They also can access any website, and they can find essays, articles, pdf, etc.

The students used to do their assignments and send them via email or other means. We can say that the covid-19 crisis showed real importance of using ICT tools in education. It also showed the vital role in online teaching during this pandemic. Moreover, ICT tools also have worth significance in online examination during the covid-19 pandemic. Most schools and universities used the facilities of ICT to do them online examinations [**1**].

V. CONCLUSION

Technology has been applied in all aspects of human life . It considers an essential tool in our daily life. The ICT tools have a vital role in education, especially in English language teaching and learning. It helps the teacher in motivating his /her students in learning the second language. The facilities of ICT tools help the learners in improving their skills such as listening, speaking, writing, and reading. On the other hand, these tools have an active role in assisting the learners in acquiring vocabulary and enhance pronunciation.

The covid-19 pandemic has showed the real significance of ICT tools in online teaching. Teachers and students have used the mentioned tools widely in the teaching and learning process during the covid-19 pandemic. It helps the learners to exploit the time by learning and acquiring skills. The use of ICT facilities has enabled the teachers to do online examinations in most schools and universities over the world.

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